IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-11 (Canceled).

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): An information display apparatus comprising:

a display device configured to display a video;

an ambient noise detection unit configured to determine a noise level of an ambient noise other than a playback speech referring to a playback speech signal via a microphone;

a closed caption display unit configured to display, on the display device, character information associated with the playback speech; and

a closed caption display control unit configured to change according to the detected noise level a display state of the character information that is displayed on the display device by the closed caption display unit.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the closed caption display control unit changes the display state when the ambient noise is higher than a given level.

Claim 14 (Original): The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the closed caption display control unit changes the display state to a display size larger than a normal size.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein when the closed caption display unit displays the character information on the display device, the closed caption display control unit extracts the character information embedded on a television video signal, generates an image of a to-be-displayed closed caption based on the

extracted character information, and outputs a video signal superimposing the image of the closed caption.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein when the closed caption display unit displays the character information on the display device, the closed caption display control unit generates an image of a to-be-displayed closed caption based on the character information corresponding to the speech information, and outputs a video signal superimposing the image of the closed caption.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): An information display apparatus using a storage medium storing a video and a speech, comprising:

a playback unit configured to playback the video and the speech from the storage medium;

a playback control unit configured to control the playback unit to control a playback state and playback sound volume;

a display device configured to display the playback video;

a playback state detector configured to detect the playback state of the video and the speech that are played back by the playback unit;

a closed caption display unit configured to display, on the display device, character information associated with the speech;

a closed caption display control unit configured to change according to the playback state a display state of the character information displayed on the display device by the closed caption display unit.

Claim 18 (Original): The apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the closed caption display control unit determines whether a playback speed is an equal speed and changes the display state of the character information when the playback speed fails to be the equal speed.

Claim 19 (Original): The apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the closed caption display control unit determines whether a playback speed is in a given range and changes the display state of the character information when the playback speed fails to be in the given range.

Claim 20 (Original): The apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the closed caption display control unit determines whether a playback direction is a forward direction and changes the display state of the character information when the playback direction fails to be the forward direction.

Claim 21 (Original): The apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the closed caption display control unit determines whether the playback state is a pause state and changes the display state of the character information when the playback state is the pause state.

Claim 22 (Original): The apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the closed caption display control unit changes the display state of the character information when the sound volume is not more than a given level.

Claim 23 (Original): The apparatus according to claim 17, which includes an ambient noise detection unit configured to detect a noise level of an ambient noise, and wherein the closed caption display control unit changes the display state of the character information

when a sound volume of the playback speech is not more than a reference level determined according to the noise level.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): The apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the closed caption display control unit includes a plurality of conditions concerning the playback state and determines satisfaction of the conditions in comparison with the playback state at the present moment, and the closed caption display control unit changes the display state of the character information when either of the conditions is satisfied or all of them fail to be satisfied, or when neither of the conditions is satisfied or all of them are satisfied.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): The information display apparatus according to claim 17, which includes a speech selection unit configured to select a speech to be played back from a plurality of speeches including a main speech and a speech other than the main speech, the plurality of speeches being associated with the video, and wherein the closed caption display control unit changes the display state of the character information when the speech other than the main speech is selected.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): The information display apparatus according to claim 17, which includes a video language selection unit configured to select a language of the video and a speech selection unit configured to select a speech to be played back from a plurality of speeches associated with the video, and the closed caption display control unit changes the display state of the character information when a language concerning the speech selected by the speech selection unit differs from the language of the speech of the video selected by the video language selection unit.

Claim 27 (Original): The apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the closed caption display control unit changes the display state to a display size larger than a normal size.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): The apparatus according to claim 17, wherein when the closed caption display unit displays the character information on the display device, the closed caption display control unit extracts the character information embedded in a television video signal, generates an image of a to-be-displayed closed caption based on the extracted character information, and outputs a video signal superimposing the image of the closed caption.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): The apparatus according to claim 17, wherein when the closed caption display unit displays the character information on the display device, the closed caption display control unit generates an image of a to-be-displayed closed caption based on the characters information corresponding to the speech information, and outputs a video signal superimposing the image of the closed caption.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): An information display apparatus comprising:

a playback unit configured to playback a video and a speech;

a display device configured to display the video;

a closed caption display unit configured to generate character information associated with the video and the speech and display it on the display device;

a display selection unit configured to select a multi-screen display mode for displaying a plurality of videos on multi-screens or a single-screen display mode for displaying a single video on a single screen; and

a closed caption display control unit configured to change a display state of the character information concerning each of the videos displayed on the multi-screens when the multi-screen display mode is selected.

Claim 31 (Previously Presented): The apparatus according to claim 30, which includes a speech control unit configured to control the display selection unit to select one of the multi-screens and output a speech, and wherein the closed caption display control unit changes the display state of the character information with respect to each of the screens other than the one of the screens that is selected by the speech control unit.

Claim 32 (Previously Presented): The apparatus according to claim 30, wherein the closed caption display control unit changes the display state to a display size larger than a normal size.

Claim 33 (Previously Presented): The apparatus according to claim 30, wherein when the closed caption display unit displays the character information on the display device, the closed caption display control unit extracts the character information embedded in a television video signal, generates an image of a to-be-displayed closed caption based on the extracted character information, and outputs a video signal superimposing the image of the closed caption.

Claim 34 (Previously Presented): The apparatus according to claim 30, wherein when the closed caption display unit displays the character information on the display device, the closed caption display control unit generates an image of a to-be-displayed closed caption based on the character information corresponding to the speech information, and outputs a video signal superimposing the image of the closed caption.

Claims 35-37 (Canceled).

Claim 38 (Original): An information display method comprising:

selecting a single-screen display mode or a multi-screen display mode;

playing back a video and a speech with respect to a single screen on the single-screen display mode and each of a plurality of screens on the multi-screen display mode; and

changing a display state of the character information associated with the video and the speech with respect to each of the screens when the multi-screen display mode is selected.

Claim 39 (Previously Presented): A program stored in a computer readable medium for displaying character information on a display device, comprising:

means for instructing a computer to playback a video and a speech from a recording medium;

means for instructing the computer to control a playback state and playback sound volume;

means for instructing the computer to detect the playback state of the video and the speech that are played back;

means for instructing the computer to change a playback state of the video and the speech;

means for instructing the computer to display character information associated with the video and the speech; and

means for instructing the computer to change a display state of the character information according to the playback state of the video and the speech.